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Government
Publications

APARTMENT 209

V/F



Ontario

an educational film from
Ontario Ministry of
Community and Social Services

27 minutes/16mm/colour/English

John Kellerman, script consultant

"Apartment 209" is a documentary film about two people who are disabled by cerebral palsy.

Lewis Blancher and Jean McKim grew up in Brantford and Milton respectively. Although their parents did not favour the idea, they both moved to Bellwoods Park House, a Toronto residence for the handicapped. There they intensified an old friendship. In 1970 they married and moved into the community, where they now live.

In a remarkably positive way, "Apartment 209" explores the basic issues of disability in today's society. Everyday concerns such as transportation, housing, daily household tasks and communication are shown, as the Blanchers accept the challenge of adapting to a world that is at best indifferent to the problems of disabled people.

This film is designed to be shown to handicapped people, their families, professional and lay people, students and others interested in helping to overcome problems the disabled face.

It is necessary that your audience have a discussion of some sort afterwards. We have listed some questions that audiences have raised, to help you design your discussion.

Depending on the size of your audience, you may choose to have a general discussion, work in smaller groups with a discussion leader for each group, or perhaps have a session of role playing. Any method you use is good if people become involved.

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Community resource people you might wish to invite to assist discussion:

- a member of a group of handicapped people
- a rehabilitation counsellor
- staff of a provincial office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services
- staff of associations for a particular disability
- staff of residences for the disabled
- parents' councils for handicapped people

Places to visit:

- a residence for the disabled
- a rehabilitation centre or sheltered workshop
- a meeting of handicapped people

Where to get this film:

For viewing or purchase, please contact your library or:

*Modern Talking Picture Service,
1943 Leslie Street,
Don Mills,
Toronto, Ontario.
(416) 444-7359*

Rental: free of charge

Purchase price: \$105.00.

We would welcome your comments on the film and the issues raised at the:

*Communications Branch,
Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services,
Hepburn Block, 7th Floor,
Queen's Park,
Toronto, M7A 1E9.*



Here are some questions that will start discussion:

1. What was your reaction to Jean and Lewis Blancher? Do you think you could get to know them? What would the barriers be and how could you overcome them? What barriers do you think they'd face in getting to know you?
2. Some people think that people who are handicapped should live together and go to special schools. Others feel that they should be integrated into society. What are the pro's and con's of each position?
3. How do you think handicapped people feel about being "different"?
4. Have you ever helped a handicapped person in a particular situation? What did you feel? Would you prefer to have handicapped people indicate their need for help? Why? How do you think they feel about this?
5. The film discusses sex among the handicapped. What were your feelings and thoughts?
6. Lewis and Jean decided not to have children. Do you think this was a good decision? How do children view handicaps?
7. What are the job limitations of the following handicaps: cerebral palsy, deafness, epilepsy, cosmetic deformity, mental retardation, blindness, heart trouble?
8. The Blanchers use ordinary utensils in a special way to do their cooking and cleaning: a deep fry with a wire basket to lift out boiled vegetables, a coffee urn with spout to boil water for instant coffee and tea, a vacuum to sweep. What devices could they use for other household tasks?
9. The main barriers handicapped people face are transportation, housing and employment. In addition, most are supported by a government allowance. How can these barriers best be met?
10. What programs would help handicapped people move out on their own?
11. What role do you think groups of handicapped people could take on?
12. What can you or your group do to involve yourselves with handicapped people?

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Ontario Ministry of
Community and Social Services

The Honourable
Rene Brunelle, Minister

T.M. Eberlee, Deputy Minister.